

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 14, 16, 23 and 24 which follow re-written in "clean"

format:

C1
SUB D1

1. (Amended/Clean) A method for the synthesis of carbide cermet powders, comprising high-energy ball milling a mixture of carbide cermet precursor powders and a carbon source to form an as-milled powder; and annealing the as-milled powder to form a carbide cermet powder.

C2
SUB D1

3. (Amended/Clean) The method of claim 1, wherein the carbon source is graphite, coal, thermal black, acetylene black, coke, or a mixture thereof.

C3
SUB D1

8. (Amended/Clean) The method of claim 1, wherein the carbide cermet powder comprises nanostructured particles.

C4
SUB DI

9. (Twice Amended/Clean) A method for the synthesis of micron- or submicron-sized, carbide cermet powders, comprising

high energy ball milling a mixture of a carbon source, at least one of a precursor of SiC, TiC, VC, HfC, ThC₂, ThC, Cr₃C₂, WC, W₂C, ZrC, TaC, Ta₂C, or NbC, and a metal source to form a milled powder; and

annealing the milled powder to form micron- or submicron-sized, carbide cermet powders.

C5
SUB DI

14. (Amended/Clean) The method of claim 9, wherein the carbide cermet powder comprises nanostructured particles.

C6
SUB DI

16. (Amended/Clean) A method for the synthesis of micron- or submicron-sized tungsten carbide powders, comprising

high-energy ball milling a mixture of a tungsten precursor, a carbon source, and a cobalt precursor to form a milled powder; and

annealing the milled powder to form micron- or submicron-sized tungsten carbide cobalt powders.

C1

23. (Amended/Clean) A method for the synthesis of micron- or submicron-sized, nanostructured tungsten carbide cobalt powders, comprising

high-energy ball milling a mixture of a tungsten precursor, a carbon source, and a cobalt precursor to form an as-milled powder; and

annealing the as-milled powder at a temperature from about 700 °C to about 1300 °C, thereby forming micron- or submicron-sized, tungsten carbide cobalt powders comprising nanostructured particles.

24. (Amended/Clean) The method of claim 23, wherein the carbon source is graphite, coal, thermal black, acetylene black, coke, or a mixture thereof.

SUB D1